

The Griffon Guide

The Military Trail

This trail takes you on a journey through a Norfolk that has seen the impact of many military conflicts over the past centuries. The artefacts that remain bear testament to the many who have given their lives in two world wars and conflicts stretching back to the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 and earlier still.





1. The RAF Air Defence Radar Museum **Near RRH Neatishead, Horning NR12 8YB** **(map ref OS 634318)**

This is a superb museum which does exactly what is says in the title. It is the story of RAF air defence and radar told in wide range of displays and dioramas at the old RAF Neatishead RAF base. A highlight of a tour is the original Cold War era Radar operations room. There is ample parking in the entrance drive to the site.



For more information, visit their web site at
<http://www.radarmuseum.co.uk/>

2. Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery **The Fairstead, Scottow NR10 5BY** **(map ref OS 627324)**



In Scottow there is a small yet very poignant Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery containing over 80 graves. During the early months of the Second World War, an area on the northern side of Scottow Civil Burial Ground was set aside by the Parish Council for burials from the nearby Coltishall R.A.F. Station. Here are fallen British, Czech, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand aircrew. Some German aircrew are also buried here. The cemetery has a Cross of Sacrifice and a memorial stone to all who served at RAF Coltishall 1940-2006. One of the most unusual casualties to be buried here is 20th Century Fox film maker Otto Walter Kanturek. During aerial filming on 26 June 1941 a Hurricane fighter aircraft collided with the camera plane, tragically killing all those in it, including Otto Kanturek.

There is limited parking on the roadside by the entrance to the cemetery.



3. 1381 Battlefield Memorial **Near Tolgate Farm, Norwich Road, North Walsham NR28** **OJA** **(map ref OS 627324)**

In 1381 the final battle of The Peasants Revolt was fought on North Walsham Heath between Bishop Henry Despencer, the warlike Bishop of Norwich and his trained soldiers and the peasants led by Geoffrey 'John' Litster. The bloody denouement of the battle was the slaughter of the peasants who had fled to the unconsecrated footings of the new church in North Walsham after they mistakenly believed they might be able to claim sanctuary there. Three stone marker crosses were erected around the battle site; stumps of two remain, while most of the cross on Toff's Loke off Norwich Road may be seen today.

The memorial is best viewed during a drive by as there is no safe parking along this stretch of the Norwich Road. The only alternative is to turn into the narrow lane on the right hand side (when driving north) and park on the verge. For more information on The Peasants' Revolt, visit the History Learning Site here:

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/peasants_revolt.htm



4. All Saints Church and Churchyard

**Cromer Rd, Mundesley NR11 8BE
(map ref OS 631336)**

Mundesley Church and Churchyard has the greatest concentration of military graves and memorials in the area. These include a memorial to one of the first young local officers to die during the First World War, James Douglas Herbert Farmer. In the graveyard is the grave of the Revd Samuel F. Leighton Green, MC and Bar, the author of *The Happy Padre* who had been Rector of Mundesley Church from 1921 until his death on 29 May 1929.

There is ample parking in the church car park. You can also walk to Mundesley Fort from here.

5. Mundesley Fort Gun Emplacements

**Vale Road, Mundesley NR11 8DT
(map ref OS 629337)**



Mundesley Fort was part of the coastal defences erected during the Second World War. From here you can also enjoy excellent views of Mundesley beach and the coastline.

6. Oerlikon Pillbox

**Cromer Road, Mundesley NR11 8DW
(map ref OS 629337)**



On the road between Mundesley and Trimmingham a pill box with an unusual oerlikon, anti-aircraft cannon mounting may be spotted in one of the fields.

All around the North East Norfolk area, especially near the crossing of the River Ant, are round pillboxes that date back to the First World War. They got their name because pills came in round boxes with flat top and bottom in those days – that name stuck so in later years, no matter what shape they were, these little military defences were called ‘pillboxes.’

There is very limited parking along this stretch of the Cromer Road, so we recommend viewing both the Oerlikon and the Golf Ball as a drive by.

7. Trimmingham Golf Ball

**Beacon Hill, Trimmingham NR11 8DY
(map ref OS 628338)**



Trimingham ‘Golf Ball’ is an enigmatic sphere that can be seen for miles around. It is in fact RAF Trimmingham Type 93 Radar Station. It is still a military base and is not open to the public.



8. The Muckleburgh Collection

Weybourne NR25 7EH

(map ref OS 610343)

This is a large collection of military vehicles, artillery, models and displays of mostly 20th century military history located on the old Weybourne Anti-Aircraft Camp. There is also a large cafe with an impressive military themed mural. The museum has its own large car park.

For more information and opening times, please visit their web site here:
<http://www.muckleburgh.co.uk/>